

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2005 (hereinafter "the 12/20/2005 Office Action"), claims 3, 12, and 29 have been amended, claims 1, 2, 13, 14, and 24-28 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer; and no claims have been added by this Amendment. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 3-12, 15-23, and 29 are all of the claims pending in the Application.

In the 12/20/2005 Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 15-23 and indicated that claims 3-12 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment Applicants have rewritten claims 3, 12, and 29 to place the claims indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter (claims 3-12 and 29) in condition for allowance, and have cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejected claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that the upon entry of this Amendment the Application will be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Should there be any questions or concerns regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP



JACK S. BARUFKA

Reg. No. 37,087

Tel. No. (703) 770-7712

Fax No. (703) 770-7901

JSB/DBE
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-7900